



Hello Friends:

THE WEEK IN SACRAMENTO:

My colleagues and I debated the merits of **AB 50**, sex offender legislation authored by **Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco)**. I attempted to re-insert four key components to the bill:

- The sum of \$8 million for 500 Global Positioning System devices to track and monitor high risk parolees
- A three year plan to increase the number of Global Positioning devices to 2500 by the year 2008
- The sum of \$15 million for distribution to regional SAFE team programs, charged with monitoring sexual offenders
- A provision that local entities receiving SAFE team funds that do not agree to reporting requirements or do not report within the specified time shall return all grant monies within 30 days after the due date of the report

These additions, though, were voted down by Republicans on a strict party-line basis, but I still feel that **AB 50** is a step in the right direction. It is legislation that will, among other things, keep convicted child molesters from being on school campuses; increase the parole duration for some sex offenders from five to 10 years; and provide for in-prison treatment of sex offenders considered likely to re-offend.

AB 50 passed off the Assembly Floor by a vote of 49-0 and will now be considered by the State Senate.

I also met with representatives from **California Youth Connection (CYC)**. **CYC** is an organization comprised of current and former foster youth, along with other interested and devoted community members who work to foster the involvement of foster youth in the development of policy and legislation to improve the foster care system. The organization is also involved in the areas of social work practice and child welfare policy.

We had a very productive discussion on foster care issues in the Central Valley and, specifically, about **CYC's** new Kern County chapter, which is coming soon. For more information on **CYC**, please visit their web site at <http://www.calyouthconn.org/site/cyc/> or simply call **CYC's** statewide

office at 415-442-5060.

Later in the week, I had the distinct pleasure of meeting with the **Arvin High School Constitution Team**. These young students impressed me a great deal with their already expansive knowledge of government and with their hunger to learn even more. If I had to guess, I would say that we will certainly be seeing many of them doing the peoples' work in Sacramento one day.

Also, I joined my good friend and colleague, **Assembly Minority Leader, Kevin McCarthy**, in welcoming **8th grade students from Fruitville Junior High School** to the **State Capitol**. We gave the students an introduction to our backgrounds, how we came to the decision to work in government, and an idea of the kind of work in which we are engaged on a daily basis.

Upcoming Events

CAL GRANTS AND FAFSA WORKSHOPS

As many of you might know paying for college can be difficult, but California has always been a leader in providing eligible students with an affordable college education. Cal Grants, a need-based financial aid program, has been a big part of making college affordable for many Californian families. Qualified students can get up to \$8,322 a year to attend almost any college in California – awards vary depending on need, grades and the college you attend.

This year I will be hosting four **Cal Grant and FAFSA Workshops** throughout my district to give high school seniors, community college transfer students (under 24 years of age), and GED holders (within one year of completion) an opportunity to learn about and apply for **Cal Grants** and other types of financial assistance programs. It's important to note that in order to be considered for many of these programs you must submit a **Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** application to the **U.S. Department of Education** before **March 2nd**.

The first of the four workshops was held on **Saturday, January 28th in Kingsburg**. I would like to thank representatives from **Fresno State University, College of the Sequoias, and West Hills Community College** for their assistance and participation. Additionally, I would like to extend a very special thank you to **Marlene Pavlina of Kingsburg High School** who played an integral role in the coordination and organization of the workshop.

Below you will find a list of dates and locations of other Cal Grant Workshops I will be hosting throughout the district. If you are unable to make any of these, I encourage you to visit www.fafsa.ed.gov for information on filling out a FAFSA form and www.csac.ca.gov for information on CAL Grants.

McFarland

Sunday, February 19th

Noon to 2:00 p.m.

**McFarland High School Cafeteria
601 Second St.**

Arvin

Sunday, February 26th

Noon to 2:00 p.m.

**Arvin High School Cafeteria
900 Varsity Road**

Hanford
TBD

If you are planning to attend any of these workshops please be sure to bring the documents listed below. They will be needed to properly fill out your financial aid forms.

- Federal income tax returns from 2004 or 2003
- Your W-2 forms or pay-check stubs
- Bank statements
- Your Social Security Card or number
- Your parents' W-2 forms
- Your parents' Social Security Card or numbers

Any students interested in nursing careers should strongly consider applying for the Associate Degree Nursing Scholarship at Bakersfield College. **IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE TO APPLY!**

I know how stressful it can be to have to worry about taking out student loans to pay for college, but you never have to repay scholarship money.

For more information on applying for the **Fall 2006/Spring 2007** scholarship call the Health Professionals Education Foundation at **1-800-773-1669** or visit www.healthprofessions.ca.gov. The application **deadline** for the fall 2006/spring 2007 school year scholarship is **March 24th 2006**.

*******URGENT: Upcoming Event*******

OPERATION VALENTINE'S FOR VETERANS: Finally, like I promised you, more details on our **Veterans Bus Ride**. For those of you unable to take part in the last years Veterans Bus Ride, mark your calendars because we are taking another trip on Friday, February 10th. This trip will be different from last years in that we will be delivering Valentine cards made by local school children to Veterans residing at the **Fresno VA Hospital**. The bus trip will begin at my Bakersfield district office and make stops in **Hanford** and **Lemoore**. Exact times are still being set. As soon as they are final, I will be sure to let you know. For more information and to RSVP, please call my **Hanford District Office at (559) 585-7170**. Space is limited and participants will be accommodated on a first come, first serve basis – please call soon if you are interested because only a few seats are still available.

Upcoming Event

When you have some free time, join **Pastor Jordan, Isiah Crompton**, and other community members in their effort to get out the message about stopping violence in our communities. They walk from house to house every Saturday, knocking on doors and explain to people the importance of keeping an eye on and working against violence in our neighborhoods. I would like to invite everyone, from individuals, to families, to groups of friends, and any concerned organizations to join us in making our streets safer for our families and our children. For more information on the Stop the Violence campaign, please contact **Pastor Jordan at (661) 472-2637**.

*******Mark Your Calendars*******

The **City of Hanford** will be holding its **Black History Month Celebration** on **February 25th**, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., at the **Civic Auditorium** on 400 N. Douty Street

There will be various forms of entertainment including, live musical performances, stories, songs and visual arts. As I found out more information, I will keep you informed. For any questions, though, please contact my **Hanford District Office at (559) 585-7170**.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

At an event sponsored by the **Chicano Correctional Workers Association (CCWA)** and the **Association for Black Correctional Workers (ABCW)**, **Frank Stiger**, of my **Hanford District Office**, presented certificates of public safety to the following individuals:

- **Mr. Lethel Polk**, Chief Deputy Warden, Corcoran State Prison
- **Ms. Cynthia Hebron**, Correctional Counselor III, Corcoran State Prison
- **Ms. Carolyn Cooper**, Facility Captain, Corcoran State Prison

Congratulations to all of you and, on behalf of the 30th Assembly District, thank you for the valuable work you do.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

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YOUTH IN NEED

The **California Coalition for Youth's (CCY)** mission is to be the **PLACE** that improves and empowers the lives of California's youth by:

- **Partnering with youth**
- **Linking with youth-serving programs throughout California**
- **Advocating for youth rights**
- **Connecting youth to resources**
- **Educating communities policymakers and stakeholders**

The **CCY** also coordinates a statewide, toll free, 24-hour, confidential phone crisis line available to young people between the ages of 12-24, and concerned friends and family members. **CCY** provides crisis intervention counseling on many issues including family problems, sexual assault, eating disorders, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, suicide and more. **CCY** offers support, encouragement, and referrals to youth needing assistance or in crisis situations. The **California Youth Crisis Line** connects an average of 12,000 callers with vital resources annually. Agencies as well as young adults from every county in California use the Crisis **Line's toll-free number, 1-800-843-5200**.

NEED HOMEWORK HELP?

The **California State Library** has made available through their website a new service called **Live**

Homework Help. This service enables students to connect on-line with a tutor for assistance with homework questions. Supported by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal funding, students can access Live Homework Help through [28 California public libraries](#). It is important to note that the tutors who respond to student questions are screened, trained, and closely monitored.

Live Homework Help is easy! Log on to <http://www.library.ca.gov/tutor/> from your computer any time between **1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.** and follow the simple setup instructions.

MEETING REQUESTS

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Ellen Manolis** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Ellen.Manolis@asm.ca.gov.

INTERNS WANTED

I am accepting applications for the fall internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield and Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the 30th Assembly District, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the Central Valley. Applications can be found by going to:

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Matt Rogers** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov.

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Paula DeLaRiva** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at Paula.DeLaRiva@asm.ca.gov.

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov.

Bakersfield Office:

601 24th St.,
Suite A
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Phone: (661) 334-3745
Fax: (661) 334-3796

Hanford Office:

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Phone: (559) 585-7170
Fax: (559) 585-7175

Capitol Office:

State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249
Phone: (916) 319-2030
Fax: (916) 319-2130

Email: Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov

Web Site: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>

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